

We Claim:

1 1. A package for retaining at least one crystal for use in a vacuum
2 deposition processing apparatus, said package comprising a tray portion
3 having a plurality of vertically disposed supporting slots for retaining a said
4 crystal; and
5 a cover portion rotatably mounted in overlaying fashion relative to
6 said tray portion, said cover portion including a slotted opening permitting
7 alignment with at least one vertically disposed supporting slot of said tray
8 portion.

1 2. A package according to Claim 1, wherein said tray portion is
2 circular.

1 3. A package according to Claim 1, wherein each vertically
2 disposed supporting slot is configured to retain a said crystal only at the
3 peripheral edges of said crystal.

1 4. A package according to Claim 1, including means for retaining
2 a crystal removal tool.

1 5. A package according to Claim 4, wherein said removal tool is
2 releasably attached to said package.

1 6. A package according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of said
2 crystal packages can be stacked for storage.

1 7. A package according to Claim 6, wherein a plurality of said
2 packages can be stacked vertically.

1 8. A package according to Claim 3, wherein each vertically
2 disposed supporting slot includes an inner wall and an outer wall, said inner
3 wall having an inward recess.

1 9. A package according to Claim 5, wherein said removal tool
2 includes a vertical slot that can be aligned with a vertically disposed
3 supporting slot.

1 10. A package according to Claim 3, wherein each vertically
2 disposed supporting slot includes an inner wall and an outer wall, said outer
3 wall including a center scalloped region to permit access to a supported
4 crystal.

1 11. A package according to Claim 1, including a detent mechanism
2 for permitting the slotted opening of the cover portion to be indexed to a
3 plurality of radial positions relative to the tray portion.

1 12. A package according to Claim 2, wherein each of said
2 supporting slots are substantially equally spaced between each other in a
3 circumferential manner with the exception of a larger spacing between at
4 least two of said slots defining a position for aligning initially with said slotted
5 opening of said cover portion.

1 13. A method for plurality of disc-like crystals for use in vacuum
2 deposition processing apparatus, each of said crystals having an active
3 center region on one side thereof, said method including the steps of:
4 providing a package having a plurality of vertically arranged slots on a
5 tray portion, each of said slots including means for retaining a said crystal
6 without contacting the center region of said crystal, said package further
7 including a cover covering said slots;
8 rotating said cover about said tray portion until a slotted opening of
9 said cover is aligned with a vertical slot; and
10 removing a said crystal.

1 14. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said removing step
2 includes the step of using a pair of tweezers.

1 15. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said removing step
2 includes the step of removing a said crystal using a removal tool.

1 16. A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said removal tool
2 includes a vertical slot, said removing step further including the step of
3 aligning said vertical slot with the aligned openings of said package
4 and allowing said crystal to be retained by said tool.

1 17. A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said removal tool is
2 provided on said package.